

DILLSBURG BANNER



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Twenty-five Cents

Franklintown Community Fire Company turns 50

By Marie Chomicki

This Sunday, February 4, the Franklintown Community Fire Company will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. In honor of this memorable occasion the company will be having an Open House from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the fire hall. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded. Everyone is invited to attend.

Past fire company officers, Governor Casey and State Representative John Broujos have also been extended an invitation.

Franklintown is unusual, in that the town had its own fire truck and fire fighting equipment before the company was officially organized.

During the late 1930's, George D. Byers felt the town needed its own fire-fighting organization in Franklintown, so he took it upon himself and bought a used fire truck. Byers then solicited the area for donations. Soon he had enough funds to pay for the truck.

Once the fire truck was bought, a place to house it was necessary. A piece of land was purchased, located at the present site on 107 South Baltimore Road. Soon after a one-story concrete block garage was erected.

The Franklintown Community Fire Company was officially formed, however, on February 1, 1940, when citizens of the town met at the school for the purpose of forming a fire company. The first officers were H. B. Nell, president; B.F. Harbold, vice president; R.K. Sealover, recording secretary; Joseph Harbold, treasurer; Charles King, fire chief; M.A. Sealover, 1st assistant; Roy Hursh, 2nd assistant.

Over the years it became apparent that the concrete block garage was not sufficient for the ever growing company. In 1953 the present day fire hall was started.

A dedication ceremony was held on May 29, 1954 when the building was completed. The new building cost approximately \$40,000 and was 2 stories high. The first floor was 30' x 50' and housed the fire apparatus, a meeting room and furnace room. The second floor was 50' x 100' and was used for additional meeting space, stage presentations and banquets.

Fire company officers in 1954 were Harry Arbogast, president; Lester Wise, vice president; Douglas Harter, secretary; George Deardorff, treasurer; Irvin Stough, financial secretary, L.L. King, chaplain; Harold Weigle, asst. fire chief; R.E. Harbold, fire chief and Paul Arnold, asst. fire chief.

With the exception of a side addition, the fire house looks pretty much the same as it did in the 1950's. The inside, however is filled with improvements made over the years.

Fund raisers such as dinners, square dances, adult dances, bingo, and chair, hall and table rentals have proved successful and has enabled the company to update its kitchen and banquet facilities.

Within the past two years new flooring has been put in the kitchen, a new air conditioning unit has been installed on the second floor, the outside entry doors have been replaced, and a new stove and refrigerator have been added.

The fire company has raised enough money to purchase a new fire truck which is expected to be delivered this April. They also recently purchased a new concession stand, a tank truck

and have spent numerous hours completely refurbishing a brush truck, from rebuilding the body to overhauling the engine and giving it a fresh coat of paint.

Present day officers are Bob McDermitt, president; Tim Anderson, vice president; Bill Eppley, financial secretary; Connie Smith, recording secretary; Marie Bullard, treasurer; Richard Blouch, fire chief; Bob McDermitt, 1st assistant; and Tim Anderson, 2nd assistant.

There are six members of the current Board of Directors. They are Ralph Gundrum, chief director; Marie Bullard; George Sprigg, assistant director; Mervin Smith; John Walker and Connie Smith, secretary. These people also comprise the Firemen's Relief Association, with Gundrum as president and Sprigg, vice president.

So, mark your calendar for this Sunday's Open House at the Franklintown Community Fire Company.



Thanks to the proceeds from various fund raisers and patrons, this brand new fire truck is expected to be delivered this April.



This is the original building, which was located on the present site of the Franklintown Community Fire Company.



Franklintown's second fire truck. This picture was taken in 1944, four years after the fire company was officially formed.

Dillsburg man frees child by lifting car

By David March

Jay Espenshade, 30, is being credited by Dillsburg Police with freeing a two-year-old girl who was pinned under her mother's station wagon.

According to Dillsburg Police Officer Rick Magee, the accident happened as the girl's mother, Darlene Barnett, age 31, and her friend Diane Lehman, no age given, were preparing for a shopping trip at 5 May Drive, Twin Hills Development, on January 25 at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Police said as Lehman pulled the keys from the ignition to open the rear hatch, the car drifted down the sloping driveway. The two women tried unsuccessfully to halt the car, which came to rest at the end of the driveway. It was then that they saw two-year-old Danielle Burnett's trapped under the front wheel on the driver's side of the car.

After calling 911, Darlene Barnett tried to halt several passing motorists, but could not get anyone to stop.

Police said he was taking out garbage around 7:00 p.m. when he heard the yelling.

"I heard them yell my wife's name," he said, "and I went over to see what was wrong." Espenshade said he tried to lift the car, but couldn't, so he found a 2 x 4 piece of lumber. Putting the lumber under the front axle, he was able to lift the car while the girl's mother pulled her free. Danielle was taken to Harrisburg Hospital by Dillsburg Ambulance 64 where she was treated for bruises and released.

Suspect apprehended in drug store burglary

By David March

Dillsburg Police this week arrested a Mechanicsburg man, charging him with the January 23rd break-in at Gruber's Pharmacy on South Baltimore Street.

Larry D. Walters, 29, was charged with burglary, theft and receiving stolen property. He was arraigned before District Justice Paul M. Diehl in York and committed to York County Prison in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

According to Detective Joe LaPorta, of the Dillsburg Police Department, Walters allegedly broke in through a side window of the drug store and stole pain killers, tranquilizers, sedatives and hypodermic syringes.

Ten days before the break-in, Walters was in Cumberland County Prison on D.U.I. charges.

Dillsburg Police Chief Glenn Smith said of the incident, "I have to give a lot of credit to Detective LaPorta. Within 72 hours of the crime being committed, we have a suspect under arrest, due to the investigation conducted by LaPorta. He did a fine job!"

Lawrence and Bomberger resign Garden Club to meet

by John Middlekauff

The "Help Wanted" sign has gone up in the office of Northern Athletic Director Bob Bostic. Head Field Hockey Coach Julie Lawrence and Head Soccer Coach Herb Bomberger have both resigned those positions with Northern High School.

Neither individual is connected with the district in a teaching capacity, but the reasons for resignation are job-related. Julie, who just completed her third year as Head Field Hockey Coach, is a licensed physical therapist and just finished work on her teaching certificate.

Unfortunately for her, the time spent at work just does not allow her to give the necessary time and commitment needed to coach.

Having just begun to see some improvement in the Field Hockey Program, Julie will be missed. Herb Bomberger has also resigned due to job conflicts. Increasing responsibilities there, as well as with his family have

also made his commitment to the Soccer program lessened. Herb has been Northern's Head Soccer Coach for six years. He came into the program at its conception and has been its guiding force right along. The culmination of the program's success has to have been this past year, when the Polar Bears won their division and Coach Bomberger was named Coach of the Year. He also will be greatly missed.

We, at the Banner, wish to thank both coaches for their splendid cooperation and openness with us. We wish them well in their future endeavors, and do congratulate them for the efforts they have made toward the District's Athletic Programs.

If there are any members of the Northern community who are interested in either of the vacated positions, they are asked to contact Mr. Bob Bostic at his office in the Senior High School.

Northern wrestlers battle back

By John Middlekauff

Northern's wrestling team took its modest three match win streak into Lower Dauphin Thursday (1/25), but came up short in this contest 33-24. The high-flying Falcons, leaders in Division I, won the matches it needed to win to pull this one out. LD's Jason Dupler pulled out a 4-1 decision over Chad Rosenberger at 119 lbs. in a contest Northern really needed. It also didn't help matters when Jerry Sterner got dumped by a very tough Nick Cargas at 125 lbs.

Still Northern really fought hard in this one, and when Dave Habowski pinned his Lower Dauphin opponent at 171 lbs, the actual team score read 24-24. That was to be it for the Bears! Brian Baxter lost a moderately high scoring 12-8 decision at 189 lb, and Jamie Lehares was pinned at 275 lb, to end Northern's shot at a real upset. Still all and all, it was a decent performance on the part of the Bears.

Saturday afternoon, Northern got back in the win columns as they smashed the Delone Squires 63-3. This non-divisional contest did have a couple close matches, but for all purposes this was Northern's all the way. At 135 lb and 140 lb, the Polar Bears really turned out the lights of Delone. First, Steve Miller pinned his opponent in just 40 secs, and then Matt Ayers got rid of his man in 51 seconds! Case closed! Northern also got pins in the heavier weights, as Lehares pinned his opponent at 189 lb and Wally Dewall followed suit with a pin at 275 lb.

Garden Club to meet

The Dillsburg Garden Club will meet Monday, February 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the Monaghan Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Guest speaker will be Char Magaro from the Pennsylvania Rainforest Action Committee.

For additional information call Dennis Mawhinney at 432-2814.

SKI-IN 1990

The American Lung Association of South Central Pennsylvania and Maryland will hold Ski-In 1990, an exciting skiing event combining fun and prizes plus the opportunity to raise money to benefit Lung Association programs and services. Skiers have a choice of three locations and dates: Ski Liberty, Saturday, February 24; Ski Roundtop, Sunday, February 25; and WISP Resort, Friday to Sunday, March 9-11.

At Ski Liberty and Ski Roundtop, recreational skiers will be challenged on a modified slalom course. WISP participants will ski at their own pace and record the total number of feet they ski, on a trail of their choice.

The registration fee is \$35.00. Skiers must raise a minimum pledge amount and will qualify for incentive prizes including an official Ski-In turtleneck, lift tickets, awards party, and grand prizes including a week's vacation for two in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a four-day vacation for two at Big Sky Ski Resort in Montana, a two-day trip for two at Ski Windham in New York, and a two day trip for two to the Poconos.

For more information about Ski-In 1990, or to register, call the American Lung Association of South Central Pennsylvania, the Christmas Seal People(R), at 845-LUNG, or 1-800-351-1512.